

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning

February 16, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 32—Relative to gender discrimination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 32, as amended, Monning. Gender discrimination.

This measure would memorialize the United States Senate to ratify, and the President to sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and would memorialize the Congress of the United States and the President to enact appropriate legislation that addresses the concerns expressed in this measure.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On December 18, 1979, the Convention on the
2 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was
3 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and after the
4 20th nation ratified the convention on September 3, 1981, it became
5 an international treaty; and
6 WHEREAS, ~~Bringing~~ *The treaty brings* the female half of
7 humanity into the focus of human rights concerns, ~~the treaty and~~
8 establishes not only an international bill of rights for women, but
9 also an agenda for action by countries to guarantee those rights;
10 and

1 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to creating
2 conditions within which women can exercise and enjoy basic rights
3 and freedoms; and

4 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to affirmative
5 action for women until parity with men is reached; and

6 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to abolishing
7 all forms of slavery and prostitution of women; and

8 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to securing
9 women's right to vote, to stand for election, and to hold public
10 office; and

11 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
12 equal opportunity for women to represent their countries
13 internationally; and

14 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to allowing
15 women the right to change or retain their nationality and that of
16 their children, regardless of marital status; and

17 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
18 girls' and women's equal access to quality education in all subjects
19 and at all levels, including continuing and vocational programs
20 for women; and

21 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
22 equal employment, vocational, and promotion opportunities, job
23 security, and equal pay for work of equal value; and

24 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
25 that women who are married, pregnant, or have children have the
26 right to work and the right to maternity leave and other appropriate
27 benefits; and

28 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
29 that child care is available, and that pregnant women are protected
30 from work that may be hazardous to their health or the health of
31 their ~~unborn child~~ *future children*; and

32 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
33 adequate health services to women, including family planning
34 where necessary, and prenatal care, including nutrition for pregnant
35 and lactating mothers; and

36 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
37 access to financial credit for women; and

38 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
39 the right of women to participate in recreational, cultural, and
40 athletic activities; and

1 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to giving
2 special attention to all the provisions of the treaty to women who
3 reside in rural areas; and

4 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
5 women equal rights in choosing a spouse, name, or occupation; to
6 marry and divorce; to own, buy, sell, and administer property; to
7 share parenting *roles*, regardless of marital status; and to choose
8 the number and spacing of their children, including adoption or
9 guardianship; and

10 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to
11 establishing a minimum age for marriage and to ensuring that all
12 marriages are entered into freely, by mutual consent; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1979, after the United Nations General Assembly
14 adopted the treaty, President Carter sent it to the Senate Foreign
15 Relations Committee for ratification, where it has remained ever
16 since; and

17 WHEREAS, Over six million women are beaten by their
18 husbands or boyfriends each year in the United States, and 1,500
19 of them die from their injuries; and

20 WHEREAS, One hundred eighty-five countries have ratified
21 the treaty; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States of America is considered by
23 many nations to be the leader of the democratic societies of the
24 world and the leading proponent of human rights, yet the United
25 States of America is the only industrialized nation in the world
26 that has not ratified the treaty; and

27 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State
28 Hillary Clinton should be strongly urged to place the treaty in the
29 highest category of priority to accelerate its passage through the
30 Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

31 WHEREAS, The Legislature should exhort the Senate Foreign
32 Relations Committee to pass the treaty favorably out of committee
33 as soon as possible; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
35 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
36 requests that the United States Congress ratify, and President
37 Obama sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination
38 of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
40 respectfully requests the Congress and the President to enact

1 appropriate legislation that would address the concerns set forth
2 in this measure; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
5 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
6 Leader of the Senate, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,
7 the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and to each Senator and
8 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
9 States.

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